

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BELGRADE 1617 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BUDAPEST
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QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 1617

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO

SUBJ: TITO ATTACKS SOVIETS AND BULGARIANS FOR DISPARAGING
YUGOSLAV WORLD WAR II ROLE

1. SUMMARY. TITO HAS DELIVERED A BLISTERING ATTACK ON SOVIET
AND BULGARIAN DISPARAGING OF YUGOSLAV ROLE AND SACRIFICES IN WORLD
WAR II, AND PUT YUGOSLAV COMINFORMISTS IN SAME CATEGORY WITH
USTASHIS AND CHETNIKS. HE PLAYED THE PART OF ASTUTE DOMESTIC
POLITICIAN IN CHOOSING MACEDONIA WHERE FEELINGS ABOUT BULGARIA RUN
HIGHEST TO MAKE SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

IN APRIL 2 SKOPJE SPEECH TITO TOOK OFF GLOVES TO REBUT RECENT
BULGARIAN AND SOVIET STATEMENTS WHICH DISPARAGED YUGOSLAVIA'S ROLE
AND SACRIFICES OF 1.7 MILLION PEOPLE (SIC) IN WORLD WAR II. "ALL THAT

IS BEING DONE NOW TO DENY OUR STRUGGLE IS WASTED BREATH; THEY CAN'T
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SUCCEED AT THAT. FOR WE ARE STILL HERE AND ALIVE, AND WE WILL

CONSTANTLY SHOW WHAT IS THE TRUTH AND WHAT IS BEING SUBSTITUTED FOR IT."

3. OBVIOUSLY ANGERED OVER RECENT SOVIET AND BULGARIAN WRITINGS WHICH FAILED TO GIVE DUE CREDIT TO THE YUGOSLAV CONTRIBUTION, TITO DID SOME HISTORICAL LECTURING OF HIS OWN. ACCORDING TO TITO, IN OCCUPIED EUROPE ONLY YUGOSLAV PARTISANS RAISED AN ARMY AND BEGAN RESISTANCE IN 1941, FENDING FOR THEMSELVES UNTIL FIR T OUTSIDE AID ARRIVED IN 1943 AND MAINLY IN 1944 "VIA ITALY" (AND BY IMPLICATION FROM WEST). ONLY IN FALL OF 1944 AND IN 1945 DID SOVIETS DELIVER HEAVY WEAPONS. "FIGHTING ON THE SIDE OF THE ALLIES", YUGOSLAVIA LOST TENTH OF ITS PEOPLE. AS FOR BULGARIAN CLAIM OF HAVING LIBERATED MACEDONIA AND LARGE AREAS OF YUGOSLAVIA, TITO NOTED SARCASTICALLY THAT BULGARIANS WERE IN YUGOSLAVIA AS "OCCUPIERS" UNTIL 1944. HE SAID THAT LATER, AS RESULT OF RUSSIAN ARM TWISTING, HE HAD AGREED TO LET BULGARIANS TAKE LIMITED PART IN RED ARMY'S SWEEP THROUGH ONE CORNER OF YUGOSLAVIA. "WE WERE WITH THE SOVIET UNION FROM THE BEGINNING AND WHO ELSE, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW, OF THOSE WHO NOW THUS DISPARAGE OUR SACRIFICES" ASKED TITO.

4. TITO NOTED FURTHER THAT YUGOSLAVS WERE LABELED AS REVISIONISTS WHEN THEY WERE "ANATHEMATIZED" BY STALIN IN 1948, BUT SAID HE WAS NOT TOTALLY OPPOSED TO LABEL SINCE IT WAS A REVISIONISM WHICH SOUGHT EQUALITY AMONG PARTIES AND RIGHT TO SEPARATE ROADS TO SOCIALISM. FORCED TO BUILD YUGOSLAVIA "ALONE", I.E., OUTSIDE THE BLOCK, TITO SAID THE GOY HAD TO TURN TO "WESTERN USURERS" AND BANKERS WHOSE ASSISTANCE BROUGHT HIGHEST INTEREST RATE AND WHO FORCED THE GOY TO ACCEPT "DEBTS OF THE FORMER REGIME".

5. TITO CONNECTED DEPRECIATION OF YUGOSLAVIA'S WAR RECORD WITH NEED TO STRENGTHEN RANKS OF LCY. THOSE WHO LEFT PARTY FOR PERSONAL OR OTHER REASONS WOULD BE TAKEN BACK IF THEY WISHED TO RETURN, HE SAID, BUT "THOSE WHO NEGATE WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN OUR STRUGGLE AND IN THE POST-WAR CONSTRUCTION "" WE DON'T WANT TO SEE THOSE IN OUR RANKS. THEY TAKE THE SAME LINE AS THE USTASHIS AND CHETNIKS ABROAD, WHO MURDER OUR REPRESENTATIVES. FOR THEY ALSO SPEAK THE SAME WAY."

6. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO USUAL PROMINENT MEDIA COVERAGE HERE TITO'S SPEECH ALSO WAS REPORTED IN NON-ALIGNED PRESS POOL FOR ALL OF THIRD WORLD TO SEE.

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7. AS ASTUTE POLITICIAN IN GUISE OF OLD WARRIOR, TITO CHOSE TO DELIVER SPEECH TO MACEDONIANS WROUGHT UP OVER REGULAR BULGARIAN DENIALS OF EXISTENCE OF ITS MACEDONIAN MINORITY -- SOON TO BE REPEATED IN BULGARIAN CENSUS.

8. TIMING OF SPEECH ALSO PROBABLY WAS CALCULATED. THE YUGOSLAVS RECENTLY REACTED SHARPLY TO BULGARIAN (AND SOVIET) HONORS ACCORDED

FORMER YUGOSLAV COMINFORMIST MARKOVSKI, WHICH YUGOSLAVS TOOK TO BE OFFICIAL ENCOURAGEMENT OF COMINFORMISM AND WARNED THAT SUCH ACTS ARE AFFECTING PARTY RELATIONS. RUMORS HAVE CIRCULATED HERE THAT A GROUP OF PRO-BULGARIAN COMINFORMISTS HAS POPPED UP IN MACEDONIA, AND ONE MACEDONIAN OFFICIAL IN DENYING RUMOR TOLD US THERE HAD HOWEVER BEEN INDIVIDUAL MANIFESTATIONS. MACEDONIANS AND OTHER YUGOSLAVS WITH WHOM EMBASSY HAS HAD CONTACT HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR FEELING THAT SOVIETS HAVE PUT THE BULGARIANS UP TO MISCHIEF AS A MEANS OF GOADING YUGOSLAVIA. WHETHER THIS IS THE CASE OR NOT, FACT THAT YUGOSLAVS CHOSE TO BELIEVE SO MAKES IT A FACTOR IN POLITICAL SCENE. TITO MINCED NO WORDS -- COMINFORMISTS ARE THE SAME AS USTASHIS. AND NO ONE HERE WILL FORGET THAT COMINFORMISTS WITH TIES TO THE SOVIET UNION WERE PUBLICLY EXPOSED LAST YEAR.

9. WITH EVENT ONLY MONTH AWAY, TITO HAS THUS SET STAGE FOR 30TH ANNIVERSARY VICTORY CELEBRATION WHICH WILL HONOR YUGOSLAV, NOT SOVIET ,
ROLE IN LIBERATION OF THIS COUNTRY.

10. REFERENCE TO TITO-STALIN 1948 BREAK IN SAME TERMS YUGOSLAVS HAVE USED TO EXPOUND LCY POSITION ON CONVENING OF EUROPEAN CP CONFERENCE WOULD SEEM TO RULE OUT ANY SOFTENING OF YUGOSLAV POSITION ON THAT ISSUE, AND LIKELY WAS MEANT AS AN ADDITIONAL SIGNAL TO THE SOVIETS IN CASE ONE WAS NEEDED.
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